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VI.—*Some Remarks on a Short Vocabulary of the Natives of Van Diemen Land; and also of the Menero Downs in Australia.*
By Dr. JOHN LUOTSKY, F. R. Bot. Soc. of Bavaria.

ALTHOUGH more than half a century has elapsed since colonization commenced in Australia, we are still very ignorant of the languages and dialects spoken by the natives of that extensive country. With the exception of Mr. Threlkeld's Australian Grammar, compiled at Lake Macquarie; a short Vocabulary of the natives of King George's Sound, at the S.W. angle of the island, by Mr. Scott Nind,* and a few words printed in Captain Dumont D'Urville's account of the *Voyage de l'Astrolabe*,† I am not aware that anything has been published on this head: yet it is a subject that cannot but be highly interesting to geographers, as probably affording a clue to the solution of that difficult geographical problem—the origin and migration of nations.

Such considerations may give a value to the following short vocabularies which they otherwise might not possess. The Australian Vocabulary was compiled during a journey I made to the Menero Downs, lying about 290 miles S.S.W. of Sydney, in the year 1834. On this journey I ascended Mount Bulka,‡ one of the highest points of that mountainous region, lying in the south-eastern angle of the island, marked in our maps as the Australian Alps, and which, if we may rely upon the height indicated by the temperature of boiling water, would give an elevation of upwards of 8000 feet, as water boiled at the temperature of 196° Fahr.

It was on the Downs, at the foot of these mountains, that I obtained this vocabulary from young people between the ages of thirteen and nineteen, who, as I have observed elsewhere,§ are always the most intelligent and communicative: the words *snow* and *ice*, found in the list, will show the localities to which these tribes occasionally resort; localities which, perhaps, may not exist elsewhere in Australia. In writing down the words I have, for simplicity's sake, invariably adopted the sound of the vowels as in Italian, or as in the English words, *father*, *there*, *fatigue*, *cold*, *rude*; the consonants are to be sounded as in English, except the termination in *ng*, which has a nasal sound resembling the *ão* in Portuguese; several syllables also commencing with the letter *j* would be far more accurately rendered by the Polish *dź*, which has no exact equivalent in the English tongue. In Australian words the emphasis falls usually on the penultimate syllable; the general sound has the common, rough, coarse, unorganized character of other uncultivated languages, and, especially

* Geographical Journal, vol. i. p. 47.

† Philologie, vol. ii. p. 6.

‡ The general name for mountains in New South Wales.

§ Australian Alps, p. 41.

when the natives quarrel, it sounds like a huge rattle. The people are not very loquacious, except the children; and I often observed the chief and his two spouses to sit for hours without uttering a word.

The Van Diemen Land Vocabulary was obtained by me at Hobart Town, in 1836, from Mr. M'Geary, who had been upwards of twenty years resident in the island, and is well acquainted with the language and manners of the people.

When we consider that, notwithstanding all the kindness now shown to them, these aborigines are fast perishing away, and that the whole number on Flinders Island does not amount to one hundred persons, this short vocabulary becomes of more value, especially as we possess none but about seventy words given by Labillardière, and 100 words procured in the *Voyage de l'Astrolabe*, from a Van Diemen Land woman then living at King George's Sound.

[The Society is indebted to Mr. Robert Brown, the companion of Flinders in his memorable voyage, for a list of about 200 words, obtained by him from Mrs. Paterson, widow of the late governor, when he was at Sydney, in 1803; the vocabulary is drawn up in French, and bears the name of Peron, an. X. Repub., compiled from the inhabitants of Van Diemen Land and the Isle of Marian:—it is placed in the comparative list, under the date of 1803; most of the words agree with those given by Labillardière. A few words are added, which were obtained in 1838 at Adelaide, South Australia, by Mr. G. Windsor Earl; apparently, they have no resemblance to the language spoken elsewhere in Australia, as far as our knowledge extends.]

E. and W. imply respectively the East and West side of Van Diemen Land.

English.	Menero Downs.	Van Diemen Land.		Adelaide, S. Australia.
		1835.	1803.	
Arms		Abri (W.)	Guna-lia *	Turriti
Beard	Yarang		Kongine	Multa
Ear	Gundungela	Pitserata	Cuengi-lia	Iri ?
Elbow ?	Yongra	Rowella (W.)		Tiringi
Eye	Mekeleit ?	Lepina	Nubere	Mina
Foot	Mondeng	Langana		Tinna
Hair	Yarang	Zitina	Cililogení	Yuka
Hand	Moranga	Anamana	Ri-lia	Murra
Knee	Karagarab	Minebana	Ranga-lia	Multa ?
Leg	Dara	Latanama		Irako
Nose	Nurnana	Minarara	Mugid	Mula
Teeth	Urgananabili	Yana	Pegt	Tial
Tongue	Talang	Mina	Mene	Taling
Thigh	Dara	Tula		Kundi

* Lia appears to be a plural termination.

English.	Menoro Downs.	Van Diemen Land.	
		1835.	1803.
Ankle			Lure
Belly	Bindi	Kaviranára (W.)	
Breast	Pinenana	Voyeni	Lere
Chin	Undogera	Kamnina	Onaba
Eye-brow	Mimorung	Tipla (W.)	Line nubera
Face		{ Niperina	
Fœminina		{ Manarabel (W.)	
Heel		Tibera	Megua
Lips	Tambamba		Laidoga
Nails	Ulinala		Mogudi lia
Navel	Niurung		Toni lia
Neck	{ Unananana	Lepina	Liué
Posteriora	{ Wadyidya	Denia (W.)	
Virilia	Tumun	Wobrata	
	Jabijang*	Lipi	
Clouds	Kulumbeo	Limeri	
Day	Nangeri	Megra	
Fire	Kembi	Lope	Une
Lightning	Kurungeran		Une bura
Moon	Kabata	Vena	
Night	Direit. Wallund		Burdunya
Snow	Gunyimá	Oldina	
Star	Jinji	Potena. Marama	
Sun	Mamadi	Piterina	Panubere
Thunder	Meibi		Bura
Earth	Bring	Natta	
Ground	Taura	Gonta	
Rock	Kurrubang	Megog	
Stone	Tunung. Gibba	Nami	Loine
Water (fresh)	Wadyang	Lugana. Moga	Lia
Acacia	Nirwan		
Bark	Parrunga		Une bura?
Branch	Palluk		Porshi
Grass		Rodedana. Publi	Poene
Casuarina, fruit of			Lubada
Leaf	Kundika		Driué
Tree	Waddi		Luparí
Wood	Kayora†	Mumanara (E.)	Gui
,, charcoal	Mundaith		Loira
Boy	Bubel	Plireni	
Brother	Didya	Pleaganana	
Old man	Yong	Lalubegana	
Bandicoot	Manyoc	Padana	
Dog (native)	Warragulmongi	Leputalla (E.)	
Emu	Biddibang	Rakana	
Kangaroo rat	Kunimein	Riprinana	?
Opossum	Buckani	Milabaina	
Crow	Wagulin	Kella-Katena	
Hawk	Miuro	Ingenana	

* The Polish Z' expresses the sound better than the English J.

† At Adelaide, wood is called kurra.

English.	Menero Downs.	Van Diemen Land.	
		1835.	1803.
Swan	Goniak	Rowendana	Girgra
Parrot	Kulitkat		Oille
Fly	Nako		Lonbodia
Oyster	Taralangana	Pulbena	
Frog	Yerrigereit	Katal	
Snake	Tidyuka		
Canoe		Lukrapani	Nenga
Beads	Droyoyelak		Pereledu
Drink (to)	Uikimá	Lugana	Laina
Evacuate (to)		Legard	Tere
Laugh (to)	Brigang		Drohi
Call (to)	Viribinela		Toni
Run (to)	Monri	Moltena, Mella	
Sit down (to)	Malaki	Mevana	Medí. Meditó
Weep (to)	Wabmalanga		Tara
Die (to)	Birraganya		Mata
Sleep (to)	Kumong		Makunya
Little	Narang. Miti	Lavara	
One	Mivan yalla		Marai
Two	Mivan bulla		Bura
Three	Mubiak		Alrif
		<i>English.</i>	<i>F. D. Land, 1835.</i>
Back	Kungun	Fine day	Lutragala
Eye-lid	Daran	Fog	Mina
Eye-lash	Mobeve	Frost	Oltana
Forehead	Ullo	Night	Levira
Heart	Tuntungeran		
Liver	Nako	Country	Walana-lanala
Mouth	Yabu	Island	Lirevigana
Shoulder	Galonénana	Mountain	Tráwala
Temples	Wangula lula	River	Waltomana
Windpipe	Mokmok	Rivulet	Montemana
Wrist	Gonéna	Water (salt)	Moahakali
Cold	Karet	Grass-tree*	Komtenana
Hail	Dondola	Forest	Loviegana
Ice	Quidong	Oak	Lemena
Sky	Pogrein		
Wind	Tawerong. Warrineh	Father	Mumlamána
„ strong	Kurubmang	Girl	Sudinana
		Man	Lusivina
		„ black	Vaiba
Box tree	Kanea Yarma		Tattana (W)
Banksia	Pirruka	Mother	
„ fruit	„ Atyango		
„ honey	„ Goa		
„ seed	„ Yua		
Gum tree	Nirwan	Badger	Pulbena
„ white	Bridgaong	Cat (native)	Napanrena
Kangaroo grass	Mallak	Kangaroo	(Lila (E))
Tea tree	Gambar	„ pouch	(Lelagia (W))
		Porcupine	Krigenana
		Seal	Tremana
Lad	Warrambel		Kateila
Young man	Yereng	Drake	Malbena

* Xanthorrhœa.

English.	Monero Downs.	English.	Van Diemen Land, 1835.
Sister	Nama	Goose	Robengana
Bird's bill	Mundu	Gull	Rowenana
„ claw	Gino	Hawk (black)	Putuna
„ feather	Kiligila	Magpie	Kenara
„ tail	Pembingo	Mutton bird	Yavla
„ wing	Gungudulongo	Pelican	Trudena
Cockatoo	Hannal	All round	Metaira
„ black	Gnina	Bad	Katea
„ white	Ger	Chief	Bungana
Duck	Kurariga	Devil	{ Comtana (E) Nama (W) Rediarapa (S)
Pigeon	Wabangla	Dry	Katribiutana
Beetle	Urrugagan	Flying	Pinega
Butterfly	Jiribal	Handsome	Marakupa
Lizard	Moga	High	Vatina
Snake (black)	Mottu	Less	Tavengana
„ (diamond)	Mallavah	Low	Luutece
Spider	Marrar	Old	Petebela
Kangaroo milk	Amagnang	Stout	Canola
„ paw	Marrangaong	Sultry	Ratavenina
„ tail	Kumiango	One side	Mabea
Rat (species of)	Chitiba	Ashamed (to be)	Vadaburena
Belt	Kumel	Come (to)	Tipera
Dance (native)	Tibiribi	Fight (to)	Menana
Frontlet	Bolombang	Get (to)	Mengana
Net	Bayken	Go !	Kabieti !
Ornaments	Bunumerang	Know (to)	Tunepi
Pipe-clay	Miridni. Kobat	Shout (to)	Karni
Red ochre	Neir	Stop (to)	Mekropani
Song	Yangang	Walk (to)	Tabelti
Shell for spoon	Bindugang	I tell you	Mena lageta
Spear	Jivim	I will go and hunt	Mena malaga latia
„ rest for	Kutma	Cape Grimm	Pilni
Tattoo marks	Maruyelang	Circular head	Malutá
Vessel for water	Kuliman	Mersey river	Pirinápel
Weapon (half moon)	Bumering*	Port Sorell	Panatanf
„ another	Hiliman		
Good	Budgony Narrak		V. D. Land, 1803.
White	Hogeila	Eucalyptus	Tara
Wicked	Tussi. Baka	„ seed of	Monodadro
Large	Kabon	„ trunk of	Pirebe
Very	Marei	Moss	Manura
Four	Nalanko	Fucus palmatus	Rugona
Five	Guba	Seaweed	Roenan. Inu
		„ dried for eating	Rori
Break (to)	Par	Head	Cuegi
Burn (to)	Walta	Family	Tagari-lia
Bury (to be)	Kundeit	Wife	Cuani
Charm for rain (to)	Dutmenei		
Cry (to)	Nimili	Bird	Muta-Muta
Cry out (to)	Wadyembuli	Parakeet	Mola
Eat (to)	Patta		
Get up !	Dubi !		

* A barbarism, for Turrama. See Threlkeld's Australian Grammar, p. xi.—Ed.
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English.	Monero Downs.	English.	Van Diemen Land, 1803.
It is right !	Abili !	Crab	Renorari
Lie down (to)	Gamburimi	Fish (gadus)	Punerala
Make haste !	Kokoi ! Barabanay !	Haliotis	Caene
Paint (to)	Murugembeli	Lobster	Nuele
Quarrel (to)	Nolonyula	Oyster shell	Luba
Scrape (to)	Takumilin	Star-fish	Oneri
Sick (to be)	Bugel. Kayar		
Speak (to)	Payola	Insect	Paroe
The fire is out !	Takayá !	Louse	Nure
This will do !	Bundat !	Basket	Terri
		Bottle	Luga
	<i>V. D. Land, 1803.</i>	Sand	Gune
Give me !	Noki	Weapon	Le
Go and eat !	Matgera	Yellow ochre	Malane
I will eat it	Madegera	Cloak of Kangaroo }	Boira
I see	Rendera	skins	
I do not know	Nideje	Afar off	Renene
I do not understand	Nidejó	I	Mana
Let us go away	Tangara	Me	Pawahi
Put wood on the fire	Treni	You	Nina
This way	Lone	No	Nendi
That belongs to me	Paturana	Yes ! good !	Erre
That kills	Mata e nigo	That	Avere
What do you call		This	Lonoi
that	Wanarana		
What is your name }		Beat (to)	Kindrega
Will you come	Canglonao	Blow (to)	Bure
Burn oneself (to)	Laguana	Slap (to)	Noeni
Cut (to)	Rogeri. Tordí	Spear (to)	Kie
Dance (to)	Ledrae	Strangle (to)	Lodamerede
Dine (to)	Bugure	Tattoo (to)	Palere
Fall (to)	Midugiya	Tie (to)	Nimere
Grease the hair (to)	Tane poere	Tear (to)	Ure
Jump (to)	Waragra	Throw (to)	Pegara
Kick (to)	Vere	Untie (to)	Laini
Kneel (to)	Guanera	Upset (to)	Moido-guna
Play (to)	Pass	Warm oneself (to)	Gagvui
Polish (to)	Rina	Whistle (to)	Menne
Sing (to)	Ledrani		

Names of Natives in Van Diemen Land (1835).

Chief of Bye River	Mampoliata	Minetela	Turi
„ Brunet Island	Oredia	Natogavena	Tuvinlin
„ Cape Grimm	Laratani	Piakuka	Umarra
„ Emu Bay	Nukanamuk	Rolamanablana	Varamunu-luvena
„ Oyster Bay	Tupralanta	Rolapena	Vatarata-runu
„ Port Davy	Tútara	Rumenentula	Yaratari
„ Robin's Island	Bendoraducka	I see a vessel on the	Mena laprea lukra-
„ Slaney Creek	Matealangana	water sailing fast,	pauí tokari pove-
Lakolá	Towganarapoholka	but a long way off	leta mavokarlana
Lakrovella-vellena	Trallaruna	at sea.	maunta.

A detailed and curious account of the manners and habits of the aborigines of Van Diemen Land, drawn up by Mr. Robinson, who has long acted almost as a father to these poor creatures at Flinders' Island, and is intimately acquainted with their language and customs, has been sent home to Her Majesty's Government. Measures have been taken to obtain from him a more extended vocabulary of their language ; and, if successful, the results will be communicated to the Society.—ED.